



Garden Rules and Planting Instructions

Garden Rules:

1) **IMPORTANT REMINDER** – Plants can be poisonous: plants and flowers in the school garden are safe for eating because we plant them specifically to eat, and we do not use any chemicals or pesticides that would be harmful if eaten.

- **NEVER** eat a plant or flower you find growing anywhere at school, home or in your neighborhood unless your parent or another responsible adult says it is ok!!!
- Many plants are **VERY POISONOUS**. Plants are tricky because many look alike. You may think it is a plant that is safe to eat, but it may not be.
- Many people put chemical pesticides on their plants to kill bugs, or they give plants special food called fertilizer that is safe for the plants, but not safe for people. These chemicals are **NOT SAFE** for people to eat!!!

2) Quiet voices, no running—do not disturb the creatures in the garden or the students in nearby classrooms. The garden is a classroom just like all the other classrooms at school. All the same rules apply as in your classroom--no running, yelling, climbing, pushing, or unruly behavior.

3) Listen to instructions and plant as you are told or your plants may not grow. If you plant too many seeds or put the seeds in the wrong place, your seeds will not grow.

Planting Plan:

- You will each get one type of seed or plant.
- We will assign each of you the type of seed or plant you get to plant.
- We will tell you where and how to plant your type of seed or plant.
- It doesn't matter what you plant today—the entire class will share the care and harvest of the garden.
- **HAVE FUN!!!**





Planting with Students

1. Nursery transplants:

Remove plant from pot or six-pack holder by either pushing up from bottom or turning it upside down into your hand. Do not pull out by the stem!

Lay out plants in triangle formation with proper spacing, check plant label if available:

- broccoli-18 inches apart
- lettuce-6 inches apart
- celery-6 inches apart
- peas-4 inches apart
- edible flowers-4 inches apart

Dig hole about 1 inch wider than the transplant.

Place gently into hole and press in dirt all around.

Water gently.

2. Seeds:

With edge of trowel or your hand, make a shallow furrow. Depth of furrow should be planting depth for seed, as listed on the seed package:

- Carrots, lettuce, spinach, chard, broccoli, radishes, flowers—1/4 inch deep
- Peas, beans, pumpkins squash, sunflowers—1 inch deep

Space furrows apart according to spacing distance listed in the lesson plan or on the seed package. Furrows should be spaced approximately two inches apart for radishes and carrots, approximately four inches apart for lettuce, spinach, chard, and approximately a foot apart for broccoli, pumpkins, squash, sunflowers, beans, peas.

Have students place seeds in furrow one seed at a time. Spacing should be one seed every inch for carrots and radishes, every two inches for lettuce, spinach, chard and peas, and every five inches for broccoli, pumpkins, squash, sunflowers, beans, peas.

Have students “pinch” furrow closed and gently pat down the soil to “tuck the seeds in.”

Cover gently with seed cloth, if using.

Water gently.

3. Onion Bulbs.

Make furrows as with seeds to a depth of a 1/4 inch. Furrows should be spaced two inches apart.

Have students dig holes by pushing finger or end of unsharpened beginner pencil into ground approximately three inches. Holes should be spaced one every two inches.

Drop onion bulb into hole making sure it is right side up (pointy side up, stringy dried root end down).

Cover gently with dirt and press dirt in.

Water gently.